

BURGESS HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the YEAR 1954

by

WILLIAM B. STOTT,

L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BURGESS HILL.

R E P O R T

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BURGESS HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The Crude Death Rate is 12.11 and this figure when adjusted gives a corrected Death Rate of 9.32 which compares with 11.3 for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 14.60 as compared with 25.5 for the country as a whole and with 8.90 for 1953.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

On page 8 will be found details of the immunisation position which summarised is as follows:-

0 - 5	...	Percentage of children immunised	85
5 - 15	...	Percentage of children immunised	95
0 - 15	...	Percentage of children immunised	95

It is not possible to obtain a much higher percentage in the 0 - 5 years group, for immunisation is not commenced until the child is three months old, and the full course of combined whooping cough and diphtheria immunisation takes three months.

Great care is taken to ensure that the parents of every child born in the district or entering from another district are informed fully of the advantages of immunisation, first by letter and later, if necessary, by personal approach. The Health Visitors have been very helpful in that they have interviewed all parents who have not accepted by the first approach, and the results achieved have been excellent as shown by the figures above. A card is made out for every child in the district and full particulars are entered thereon. As an additional check a book is kept in which is recorded the names of every child born in the district, with details of immunisation, and it is thus possible to see at a glance the position from month to month.

The number of parents who refuse immunisation is very few — about 1 per cent — but there are a few who, though not against it and who say they will have it done, do not bother to take their children to the doctor's surgery or to the clinic. It is to these parents that I address myself through the good services of the local press and ask them to have their children immunised without delay as if the diphtheria bacillus gains entry into a school or household it will then be too late to immunise and it will be the non-immunised children who will suffer.

For the past two and a half years the procedure adopted in this district is to give the combined vaccine of diphtheria and whooping cough. Parents are given the option of taking their children to their own doctor or to a special clinic which Dr. H. L. Duke, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, attends. The great majority of parents accept the combined immunisation, but if only immunisation against diphtheria is sought this is done at a later date, usually about the eighth or ninth month. Early immunisation against whooping cough is recommended because the first year of life is the most dangerous for this disease. The material used for the combined immunisation is Parke Davis W.D.P. as it has the advantage of not containing alum which is reputed to increase the risk of post-inoculation poliomyelitis when that disease is prevalent in the district. Another advantage is that it is given subcutaneously as against intramuscularly and so is less likely to cause paralysis. The injections are given at monthly intervals followed by a Schick test three months after the final injection, with of course a further injection if the test is positive. For immunisation against diphtheria alone P.T.A.P. is employed as this also is reputed to be less liable to cause paralysis.

In order to keep up the immunity a reinforcing injection of P.T.A.P. (Diphtheria Prophylactic) is given at the age of five years and at 10 - 11 years the child is retested and receives a further injection if the immunity has waned. Last year 154 children were tested in the latter category and only 14 were found to have lost their immunity — a percentage of 9 — showing that the procedure carried out in this district should be effective in preventing the occurrence of diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS.

As will be seen from the table on page 9 although notifications have remained about the same from year to year there has been a distinct tendency for deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis to fall during recent years.

The reasons for the decrease in mortality are several and include the following:-

- (1) Notification of the disease at an earlier stage than formerly, due to more people realising that if seen and treated early they will be more likely to recover.
- (2) More use of X-rays by General Practitioners as an aid to diagnosis. (It is generally agreed that X-rays are superior to a clinical examination in finding an early case).
- (3) Better knowledge among the public of the right foods to buy, resulting in an improvement in nutrition. There can be no doubt that the educational affect of canteen meals for schoolchildren and the classes for senior girls at school on Domestic Science have played a part in this better nutrition.
- (4) It is well known that better housing is also an important factor in reducing the incidence of tuberculosis, and this Council's policy in dealing energetically with unfit houses and giving priority in rehousing of families with a case of tuberculosis, has no doubt played a part in the reduction of the disease in this district. I will take this opportunity to stress the danger to contacts in the family when a case occurs and where the accommodation in the home is inadequate.
- (5) Examination of close contacts by the Chest Physician and the testing and vaccination of the children with B.C.G.
- (6) The Mass Radiography Unit has been available at Burgess Hill during the past few years for anyone who wished to be examined and this has brought to light a number of early cases.
- (7) The testing and vaccination of senior schoolchildren with B.C.G. has now been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health and this should have the effect in time of still further reducing the incidence of tuberculosis.
- (8) Treatment by Streptomycin and other new drugs.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY.

By arrangement with Dr. B. G. Rigden, Medical Director, East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit, a Survey was carried out in Burgess Hill in the Spring of 1954. Examination was open to anyone living in this district, and posters and leaflets giving particulars of the times for attendance were distributed. The total attending was 928 persons and four were found to have active pulmonary tuberculosis and twenty-eight inactive pulmonary tuberculosis. These surveys not only bring to light early and generally unsuspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis but have a health education value in drawing the attention of the public to the facilities available for early diagnosis.

BRUCELLA ABORTUS.

In June information reached this office that a person resident in the district had contracted undulant fever. This disease is not notifiable under the Public Health Act, 1936 but is caused by drinking raw milk infected with *Brucella abortus*. It was ascertained that the man had consumed raw milk retailed in the district, but as he travelled considerably he had no doubt consumed other milk. A sample of milk was taken from the farm supplying the milk and sent to the laboratory for biological test. Some eight weeks later the report was received and was positive for *Brucella abortus*. In an endeavour to find the source of infection individual cow samples were tested (Ring Agglutination test), quarter samples were taken from the suspected cows and cultured and one cow was reported as excreting *Brucella abortus*. The milk from this cow was at once withheld from consumption and shortly afterwards the farmer disposed of the cow.

It is unfortunate that no legal powers exist to enable a cow found to be excreting *Brucella abortus* to be slaughtered as in the case of a tubercular cow under the Tuberculosis Order. There is nothing to prevent such a cow being sold in the open market and so continue to infect the milk supply and also infect other cows in the herd to which it has been added.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES.

The Slaughterhouse Act of 1954 made local authorities responsible for ensuring that sufficient slaughtering facilities were available to meet the needs of each district. The local butchers held a meeting early in the year and were of the opinion that one slaughterhouse would be sufficient for the needs of Burgess Hill. One butcher stated that he was prepared to enlarge and improve his existing slaughterhouse to the satisfaction of the Council and to slaughter for all the butchers in the district. This was agreed and the works duly executed, resulting in an up-to-date slaughterhouse. A full account will be found in Mr Hobson's report on page 14.

MILK SUPPLY.

A similar survey to that carried out last year shows another marked improvement in the position with regard to pasteurisation. The total average daily consumption of milk in the district is 1,042 gallons, of which 869 gallons are pasteurised, and the remainder tuberculin tested. No ordinary ungraded milk is now sold in the district.

For comparison with the previous year the percentages of the types of milk sold are as follows:-

Type of Milk	1953	1954
Tuberculin Tested	25	17
Pasteurised	72	83
Ordinary	3	-

WATER SUPPLY.

1. The water supply of the district, provided by the Burgess Hill Water Company, has continued to be satisfactory in quality. There has again been no shortage of water during the summer months.
 2. The Company carried out monthly bacteriological examination of the raw water and all were satisfactory. The water was chlorinated.
 3. The supply is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.
 4. There was no evidence of the supply being contaminated.
 5. With the exception of three houses, all are provided with a piped supply direct to the house.
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My thanks are due to Mr. J. W. Hobson, Sanitary Inspector, for his help and co-operation and for the particulars supplied for this report.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. B. STOTT.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

<u>Medical Officer of Health</u>	William B. Stott, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin), D.P.H. (Camb.)
<u>Deputy Medical Officer of Health</u>	H. L. Duke, O.B.E., M.D., Sc.D. (Camb.), D.T.M. & Hy.
<u>Sanitary Inspector</u>	J. W. Hobson, M.S.I.A., Certified Meat Inspector.
<u>Clerks to the M.O.H.</u>	Miss G. L. Everson, Miss J. M. Lewry.
<u>Clerk to the S.I.</u>	Miss J. Hardcastle.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Statistics for the years:

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954.</u>
Area of District in Acres	2,024	2,024	2,024
Population estimated to middle of year ..	8,748	8,748	9,080
Rateable Value	£69,761	£71,724	£79,017
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£275	£280	£310
Denisty of Population (persons per acre) ..	4.32	4.32	4.48
Number of houses	2,585	2,653	2,908
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	12.12	12.80	15.09
Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.17	12.92	12.11
Infant Mortality Rate	9.43	8.90	14.60

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BURGESS HILL URBAN DISTRICT.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	3	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	4	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	9	12
18. Coronary disease, angina	13	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	3
20. Other heart disease	12	14
21. Other circulatory disease	7	2
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	3	1
24. Bronchitis	-	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	1	1
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
34. All other accidents	-	-
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Totals ..	<u>59</u>	<u>51</u>

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Births and Birth Rate:

The following table shows the Births registered for the year 1954:-

						<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	76	59	135
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
					Total ..	<u>77</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>137</u>

This gives a rate of 15.09 per 1,000 population.

The corrected Birth Rate is 17.20.

						<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total Stillbirths	..	..	..	..		1	1	2
Legitimate	..	..	..	..		1	1	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..		-	-	-

Deaths and Death Rate:

The following table shows the Deaths registered for the year 1954:-

<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
59	51	110

This gives a mortality rate of 12.11 per 1,000 population.

The corrected death rate is 9.32.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities:

All milk and water samples, infectious disease and food poisoning specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton. Medical practitioners send the specimens direct to the Laboratory, and they receive the report by telephone, a copy of such report being sent to this office. My thanks are due to Dr. J. E. Jameson, Medical Director, for his informative reports and helpful advice on many occasions.

Ambulance Facilities:

Cases of infectious diseases are now removed by one of the two British Red Cross Society's ambulances stationed at Lavender's Garage, Sussex Road, Haywards Heath.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases:

Twenty-six beds are available at the Mid-Sussex Isolation Hospital for the treatment of cases of infectious disease, twelve of these beds are in a cubicle block and the other fourteen in a block consisting of two main wards and side wards. A table on page 10 gives particulars of admission during the year.

Smallpox:

The South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board state that cases of smallpox occurring in this district should be sent to the River Hospitals (Long Reach), Dartford, Kent.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE:

Burgess Hill	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Every Thursday, Dr. attends each session.
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CLINICS:

Diphtheria Immunisation	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	1st Friday 2 - 3.30 p.m.
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Chest	..	Haywards Heath Hospital Butlers Green Road Haywards Heath	Every Thursday
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Orthopaedic	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Tuesday 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Dr. usually attends 3rd and/or 4th Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. (By appointment)
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Speech Therapy	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Wednesday 2 p.m. (By appointment)
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Child Guidance	..	<u>East Grinstead:</u> Moat Road	Every Friday 10 a.m. (By appointment)
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		<u>Lewes:</u> Castlegate House	Every Wednesday 10 a.m. (By appointment)
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		<u>Hove:</u> 33 Clarendon Villas	Tuesday 10 a.m. Thursday 2 p.m. (By appointment)
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Eye Refractions (Schoolchildren)	..	Cuckfield Hospital Haywards Heath	By appointment
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Minor Ailments	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Weekdays (Mondays to Fridays) 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
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Dental	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	By appointment
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School Clinic	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Dr. Sweeney (By appointment)
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* Family Planning	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands, Boltro Road Haywards Heath	2nd and 4th Wednesday 2 p.m. Dr. each session (By appointment)
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* Sub-Fertility	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands, Boltro Road Haywards Heath	1st Wednesday 2 p.m. Dr. each session (By appointment)
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Venereal Diseases		Facilities available at Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.	
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<u>Men</u>	Monday	4.30 p.m.
				Wednesday	9.30 a.m.
				Thursday	1.30 p.m.

<u>Women and Children</u>		Tuesday	1.30 p.m.
		Thursday	10 a.m.
		Saturday	9.30 a.m.

New cases must attend at least one hour before the Clinic closes.

<u>ANTE NATAL CLINICS:</u>	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	1st and 3rd Tuesday 2.30 p.m.
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* These Clinics are provided by the Family Planning Association.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

0 - 15 Years of Age.

Number on roll	..	..	..	..	..	2,523
Number immunised	..	..	..	..	..	2,318
Percentage	..	..	..	..	..	95

0 - 5 Years of Age.

Number on roll	..	..	..	..	..	723
Number immunised	..	..	..	..	..	612
Percentage	..	..	..	..	..	85

The table below shows the immunisation figures for every school in the district:-

				On Roll	Immunised	Percentage
<u>SCHOOLS: Primary and County Secondary.</u>						
South Burgess Hill Primary	..	..		339	334	99
Oakmeeds County Secondary	..	..		393	384	98
Junction Road Primary	..	..		392	382	97
				1,124	1,100	98
<u>NOT YET AT SCHOOL, or at school outside our area</u>						
	..	..		184	180	98
<u>SCHOOLS, Private</u>						
	..	..	..	492	426	87
				1,800	7,706	95

During the year:- 142 children were immunised
219 children were Schick tested
145 children had a reinforcing injection

VACCINATION.

Eighty-eight children were vaccinated under the age of one year — a percentage of 64.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Total cases notified	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	1	-	-
* Food Poisoning	36	1	-	3	1	1	2	-	1	4	10	12	1	-	-
Measles	9	-	1	-	-	1	2	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	49	-	5	5	9	8	20	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Totals	101	1	6	8	10	10	24	4	4	8	10	14	2	2	-

* The cases of Food Poisoning were in respect of the outbreak which occurred in February 1954 and which was fully reported in my last year's report.

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1954.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	4	6	-	1	1	-	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS, 1943 - 1954.

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
1943	6	1	3	-
1944	8	4	1	-
1945	6	1	2	-
1946	9	4	2	-
1947	6	1	8	-
1948	4	-	3	-
1949	5	1	1	1
1950	9	-	3	-
1951	6	1	1	1
1952	7	4	-	-
1953	3	1	-	2
1954	10	1	1	-
Totals	79	19	25	4

THE MID-SUSSEX ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

I am indebted to the Matron, Miss J. M. Reid, for the following particulars of cases admitted during the year:-

Disease.	Cuckfield Rural District	Cuckfield Urban District	Burgess Hill Urban District	East Grinstead Urban District	Uckfield Rural District	Other Districts	Total
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	3	-	4
Observation Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	7	2	-	4	-	2	15
Measles and Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Observation Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Gastro-enteritis	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Chickenpox	1	-	-	-	-	4	5
Chickenpox and Shingles	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Shingles	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas and Cellulitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cellulitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mumps	1	-	2	-	-	-	3
Mumps and Orchitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tonsillitis	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Laryngitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sinusitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Sinusitis and Drug Rash	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
Impetigo	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Migraine	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	-	-	19	22
Totals.. ..	21	6	4	9	6	28	74

The Cubicle Block allowed twenty-two different diseases, observation cases or diseases with complications to be dealt with.

SANITARY SUPERVISION OF THE AREA.

Mr. Hobson, Sanitary Inspector, has furnished the following report on the sanitary supervision of the district.

Summary of Inspections.

<u>Housing:</u>	Under Housing Acts	6	
	Under Public Health Acts	218	
	Revisits	269	
	Visits re Council housing	<u>385</u>	878
<u>Public Health Acts:</u>	Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning ..	71	
	Premises Disinfected	7	
	Infestations dealt with	26	
	Moveable Dwellings	39	
	Keeping of Animals	1	
	Watercourses	<u>2</u>	146
<u>Food Premises:</u>	Bakehouses	17	
	Slaughterhouses	16	
	Ice-cream	32	
	Catering Establishments	23	
	Licensed Premises	1	
	Foodshops	68	
	Dairies	<u>18</u>	175
<u>Trade Premises:</u>	Factories - Mechanical Power	5	
	Factories - Non-mechanical	12	
	Petroleum Acts	43	
	Pet Animals Act	1	
	Shops Act	<u>7</u>	68
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>	Rats and Mice (made by Rodent Operator) ..	2991	
	Swimming Pool	3	
	Unclassified	<u>20</u>	3014
	Total visits		<u>4281</u>
<u>Samples Taken:</u>	Drinking Water (Public Supply)		
	Chemical and Bacteriological	4	
	Private Wells - (Bacteriological)	2	
	Swimming Pool - Bacteriological	1	
	Ice-cream - Bacteriological	30	
	Milk- Bacteriological, Biological and Phosphatase	181	
	Individual samples for tracing Brucella abortus	<u>262</u>	480

COMPLAINTS.

During the year 197 complaints were received (not including reports of rats and mice). The complaints concerned:-

Housing defects	56
Drainage	87
Infestations (various)	20
Miscellaneous	34

NOTICES.

Number of notices outstanding at end of 1953 34
Number of notices served during 1954:-

(a) Preliminary	35
(b) Statutory	--
(c) Verbal	<u>38</u>
	107

Number of notices complied with during 1954 50
Number of notices outstanding at end of 1954 57

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

1. Number of dwelling houses at which structural repairs were carried out	16
2. Number of dwelling houses at which cleansing and redecoration were carried out	5
3. Number of premises at which accumulations and obstructions were removed	7
4. Number of dwelling houses at which renewals, repair or extension of drainage systems were carried out ..	15
5. Number of dwelling houses at which obstructed drainage systems were cleared	137
6. Number of dwelling houses at which drainage system was connected to main sewer and cesspools abolished ..	7
7. Number of dwelling houses at which new dustbins were supplied	3
8. Number of dwellinghouses at which flooding was dealt with	3
9. Number of W.C.s repaired, renewed, or additionally provided	10
10. Number of W.C.s to which fixed wooden seats were abolished	3
11. Number of drains tested	7
12. Number of cesspools emptied	100
13. Number of bakehouses and other food preparing premises to which improvements were carried out	3
14. Number of factories, offices and shops to which improvements were carried out	4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS, MEAT, MILK, etc.

Number and type of food premises:

Grocery and provision	30
Butchers	11
Fishmongers	4
Fruit and vegetables	8
Cakes, bread and confectionery ..	5
Sugar confectionery	14
Hotels, restaurants and cafes ..	16
Canteens	8
	<hr/>
	96
	<hr/>

Number and type of premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

For the manufacture of sausages ..	11
For the manufacture of ice-cream ..	1
For the storage and sale of ice-cream	36
	<hr/>
	48
	<hr/>

No. of inspections carried out:

Ice-cream premises	..	..	..	32
Other registered premises	..	..	..	2
Bakehouses	..	..	..	17
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	16
Catering establishments	..	..	..	23
Licensed premises	..	..	..	1
Other food shops	..	..	..	66
Dairies	..	..	..	18
				<u>175</u>

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949:

Number of Dairies registered	..	6
Number of Distributors on Register	..	7
Number of Producer-distributors	..	1

LICENCES GRANTED UNDER MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Tuberculin Tested (Dealers)	..	4
Tuberculin Tested (Supplementary)	..	3
Pasteurised (Dealers)	..	5
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	..	3
Sterilised (Dealers)	..	1
Sterilised (Supplementary)	..	1

Sampling:

Milk. (a) Bacteriological Examination

Number of samples taken	..	..	94
Number satisfactory	..	..	85
Number unsatisfactory	..	..	9
Samples obtained for special investigation	..	..	12

(b) Biological tests for T.B. etc.

Number of samples taken	..	..	24
Number satisfactory	..	..	17
Number containing tubercle bacilli	..	..	1
Number containing Brucella abortus	..	..	6
Number of individual samples taken for detection of Brucella abortus	..	..	262

(c) Phosphatase test for Pasteurisation.

Number of samples taken	..	..	51
Number satisfactory	..	..	49
Number unsatisfactory	..	..	2

Ice-Cream. Bacteriological Examination.

Number of samples taken	..	..	30
Number satisfactory (Grades I and II)	..	..	25
Number unsatisfactory (Grades III and IV)	..	..	5

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

When Government control of the slaughtering and distribution of meat finished at the end of June only two of the four small slaughterhouses in use before the war were still available, the others having been converted to other purposes. Of the two available, the one situated in West Street had not actually been used and had fallen into a very dilapidated state. The other situated in London Road, had been used periodically for the slaughter of a small number of pigs under Ministry of Food Licences.

The slaughterhouses Act, 1954 which came into operation on July 5th placed upon Local Authorities the duty of seeing that adequate slaughtering facilities existed. Accordingly, the views of the local Butchers were sought and it was ascertained that the needs of the district would be served if one slaughterhouse of adequate size was made available to serve all the Butchers in the district. The owner of the West Street slaughterhouse therefore agreed to enlarge and improve his slaughterhouse to satisfy the requirements of the Council and to deal with the necessary amount of slaughtering.

A considerable amount of work was carried out involving the pulling down of much of the old building and the construction of a large new lairage to hold over 100 animals. Another building was completely renovated, strengthened and adapted to form a slaughter hall and hanging room and the premises were fitted up with modern appliances such as an electric saw and electrically heated hot water system. Washing and sanitary accommodation and a locker room were provided for the staff employed on the premises, and this slaughterhouse is now one of the best to be found in this part of the country.

As the owner of the other slaughterhouse in London Road still wished to use the premises for a small amount of slaughtering, he was required by the Council to carry out a certain amount of improvement works, and this resulted in these premises also being brought to quite a good standard for the amount of slaughtering proposed to be carried out in the future.

Slaughtering began in the West Street premises at the end of July and it soon became apparent that a considerable amount of slaughtering would be taking place. It now appears that the throughput will be at the rate of over 4,000 head per year.

The total animals killed to the end of the year is as follows:-

Cattle	316	Calves	128	
Sheep and Lambs	176	Pigs	616	<u>Total .. 1236</u>

Meat Inspection.

The work of meat inspection which had been insignificant in amount since before the war has now become of major importance. Every animal killed, is inspected before leaving the slaughterhouse, and this work alone had necessitated 195 visits since slaughtering began at the end of July. A small proportion of this additional work is carried out in the day time, but because of the hours of slaughtering by far the greater amount has to be done by the Sanitary Inspector outside his normal working hours.

The following table gives a summary of the carcasses inspected and meat condemned:-

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	310	6	128	176	616
Number inspected	310	6	128	176	616
<u>All disease except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	46	2	2	7	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	15	33.3	1.5	4	1
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	-	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	2	-	-	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.2	50	-	-	2.4

The following gives further details of the carcasses and organs condemned for Tuberculosis and other conditions.

Condemnations for Tuberculosis.

<u>Cattle</u>				<u>lbs.</u>
Heads, tongues	..	..		304
Lungs	..	..	..	86
Liver	..	..	..	12
Mesenteries	..	..		36
Complete carcasses and organs (2)	..	..		1724
<u>Pigs</u>				<u>lbs.</u>
Heads, Tongues	..	..		70
Mesenteries	..	..		10
Complete carcasses (2)	..			282
				<u>Total 2524</u>

Condemnations for other conditions.

<u>Cattle.</u>			<u>lbs.</u>
Heads, tongues	(Actinomycosis)	..	29
Livers	(Cirrhosis)	..	190
Livers	(Abscesses)	..	251
Livers	(Peritonitis)	..	14
Livers	(Angioma)	..	7
Lungs	(Abscesses)	..	36
Heart	(Pericarditis)	..	7
Skirt	(Abscesses)	..	46
Mesentery	(Parasitic)	..	18
Udder	(Abscesses)	..	4
Abdominal Viscera	(Peritonitis)	..	26
Carried forward			<u>628</u>

			lbs.	
	Brought forward		628	
<u>Calves</u>				
Breast	(Abscesses)	..	10	
Kidneys	(Nephritis)	..	2	
<u>Sheep.</u>				
Lungs	(Parasitic)	..	15	
Liver	(Parasitic)	..	2	
Leg	(Worrying by dog)		2	
<u>Pigs.</u>				
Lungs	(Pneumonia)	..	10	
Liver	(Abscesses)	..	4	
Kidney	(Hydromeprosis)		10	
Carcase and organs	(Fevered)	..	110	<u>Total 793</u>

TOTAL. 3317 lbs. (1 ton. 9 cwts. 2qts. 13 lbs).

The condemned offals etc. are collected by a firm for conversion into non-edible products, and the carcasses after being stained are disposed of to a firm which undertakes to cut them up into small pieces which are sterilised and sold for animal feeding.

Inspection of Other Foods.

Fifty-four other visits were made to various premises for the purpose of food inspection, and the following list shows the amount of foods of various kinds condemned:-

					lbs.
Tinned Ham	..	..	..	..	33
Tinned Meat	..	..	..	..	61
Tinned Puddings	..	..	..	..	16
Tinned Vegetables	..	..	..	..	82
Tinned Soups	..	..	..	..	53
Tinned Milk	..	..	..	..	10
Tinned Fruit	..	..	..	..	116
Tinned miscellaneous foods	..	..	..	..	274
Fruit	..	..	..	..	34
Preserves etc.	..	..	..	..	35
Cereals	..	..	..	..	56
Meat	..	..	..	..	42
Biscuits	..	..	..	..	28
Sausages	..	..	..	..	7
Fish	..	..	..	..	42
Cheese	..	..	..	..	7
					<hr/>
					8%
					<hr/>

TOTAL: = 8 cwts.

Also 94 bottles various cordials, pickles etc.

Condemned food is generally removed to the Council refuse tip where it is destroyed by burning, but occasionally it is possible to arrange for some to be used for feeding animals.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Mr. S.W. Cook who is the full-time Rodent Operator for the District has been kept fully occupied dealing with infestations of rats and mice.

Two hundred and thirty-four complaints were received and 2991 visits were made to 664 separate premises. One hundred and fifty infestations of rats and 64 of mice were found and dealt with. The estimated kill was 910 rats and 1040 mice. These figures are all higher than in the previous year. Three hundred and ninety-eight dead rats were collected.

A free service is provided for the treatment of private houses and a charge is made for business premises.

The new rodenticide "Warfarin" has been used to a greater extent this year and has given satisfactory results. By using this material in suitable locations the number of visits normally required can be considerably reduced.

When not engaged in actual treatment the Operator's time is occupied in making surveys of the district in search of infestations, but this year so much time has been occupied in dealing with infestations that little time has been available for survey work.

The Council's refuse tip receives regular attention and has remained free from serious infestation. Four treatments have been carried out during the year with good results.

The annual test-baiting of the whole sewerage system was carried out as usual in the Spring, no infestation being found.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING AND SEWERAGE.

Because of extensions to the sewers to serve new building schemes, it was possible to connect seven further houses to the main drainage system in various parts of the town and discontinue the use of the cesspools. Further schemes of this kind will result in other cesspools being abolished in the near future.

The cesspool emptying scheme has continued to work satisfactorily during the year and approximately 100 emptyings were carried out.

The considerable additional population now being served by the sewage disposal works is resulting in the overloading of these works, and the Council has engaged a firm of Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for the enlargement and improvement of the sewers and sewage works to overcome the present difficulties.

HOUSING.

Good progress has been made in the provision of houses by the Council. Twenty-eight traditional houses were completed as well as 20 Cornish Unit dwellings.

A further 20 Cornish Units are under construction and six more are to follow to complete this site. The remainder of the Council's present housing scheme as planned will comprise 18 non-traditional houses and this will use up all the land now in the Council's possession for housing.

The above houses will be sufficient to clear the Council's present housing Waiting List and rehouse the 14 or so remaining occupants of requisitioned property. For the time being the Waiting List has been closed to further applicants, and until the list is re-opened it is not possible to judge the future needs of the district with regard to housing.

No formal action under the Housing Acts was taken during the year but a survey of the older houses in the district was carried out, and a total of eight houses was submitted as the Council's estimate of the number to be demolished or closed under the Slum Clearance programme. Formal proceedings will shortly be commenced in respect of one or two of these properties.

With the coming into operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, there have been four applications to date for Certificates of Disrepair, and in each case a Certificate has been issued. In two cases the required works have been carried out and the Certificate revoked.

As mentioned in last years report a considerable amount of private building is being carried out in the district. Well over a thousand houses have been completed since the war, and in the last 18 months alone the total is 700 new houses.

The Council is now making advances in suitable cases to assist purchasers to obtain their own houses and this will assist in reducing the number of persons requiring houses to rent.

The Improvements Grant section of the Housing Acts has not yet been brought into operation, but it is anticipated that this will not be long delayed.

FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	8	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	4	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	2	5	1	-
Totals:	16	17	2	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	3	3	-	1	-